



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 3/9/2004

GAIN Report Number: AR4014

Argentina

Biotechnology

New Biotechnology Office in the Argentine Secretariat of Agriculture

2004

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Report Highlights:

Through Resolution 244/2004 the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food has created the Biotechnology Office in order to organize and centralize the activities performed in the different biotech areas. Changes in the integration of the National Advisory Commission on Agricultural Biotechnology (CONABIA), the entity that evaluates biotech events, have been introduced as well.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Buenos Aires [AR1]
[AR]

Creation of the Office of Biotechnology

In February 2004, the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food estimated imminent the need for an institutional transformation that would organize the activities of the different entities involved in the approval and regulation of biotech events in Argentina and create a focal point for advice and assistance in the development of activities related to biotech and biosecurity, thus allowing a better utilization of human and material resources available.

As a consequence, the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, creates the Office of Biotechnology, whose responsibility will be to provide advice and assistance in the development of all the activities related to biotechnology and biosafety, especially those related to the environmental release and trade of biotech plants and/or animals. It will also provide assistance in defining policy, designing specific regulations and promoting activities of the Secretariat.

The Biotechnology Office will be led by a General Coordinator, an Executive Coordinator and integrated by the following technical coordinators: Biosecurity Technical Coordinator, Technical Analysis and Policy Formulation Coordinator and Regulatory Design Coordinator.

General Coordinator: Assists and provides advice to the Secretariat in areas of competence to the Biotechnology Office. Elaborates and proposes promotion of areas of interest to the development of activities. Performs the role of Executive Secretary of CONABIA

Executive Coordinator: Assists the General Coordinator, especially in areas related to regulatory framework.

Biosecurity Technical Coordinator: Proposes and executes actions to adequately ensure biosecurity in biotechnology, trials and environmental release and analyzes the impact to the environment and ecosystem evaluation in the areas of release.

Technical Analysis and Policy Formulation Coordinator: Proposes and executes actions related to biotechnology and biosecurity in coordination with other policies, strategies to follow in international negotiations, market intelligence and strategic alliances of national interest, as well any other aspects related to biotech plants or animals.

Regulatory Design Coordinator: Provides assessment of international and national regulatory framework, proposes formulation or improvement of regulations and corresponding actions to follow.

CONABIA, New Board of Members

The National Advisory Commission on Agricultural Biotechnology, CONABIA, is the body of consultation and technical support that advises the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food on the technical and biosafety support requirements to be met in the release into the environment of genetically engineered plants and material for veterinary use. The members of CONABIA are representatives from both the public and private sector with a very wide range of relevant expertise engaged in Agricultural Biotechnology.

Each represented institution will have representative and one alternate. After several inclusions, CONABIA will now be integrated as follows:

2 representatives from National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)

2 representatives of each of the following universities: National University of Buenos Aires, University of Mar del Plata, University of Quilmes, and Comahue National University
2 representatives of the Argentine Biotechnology Forum (FAB)
2 representatives of the Argentine Seed Association (ASA)
2 representatives of National Council of Scientific Research (CONICET)
2 representatives of National Seed Institute (INASE)
2 representatives of National Service of Agricultural and Food Health and Quality (SENASA)
2 representatives of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development,
Ministry of Health
2 representatives of the Secretariat of Policy, Regulations and Sanitary Relations, Ministry of Health
2 representatives of the Chamber of Fertilizers (CASAFE)
2 representatives of the National Institute of Fisheries, Research and Development
2 representatives of the private agricultural sector
2 representatives of the private livestock sector
2 representatives of the fisheries sector
The General Coordinator of the Office of Biotechnology (who will perform the duties of the Executive Secretary) and the Technical Biosecurity Coordinator

These changes demonstrate an improved integration with all the sectors related to the activities developed by CONABIA.

Note: It is expected that this reorganization will not lead to mayor changes in the way the Secretariat handles biotech issues.